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Remarks

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action of October 4, 2006. Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 14-23 are pending, and all claims are rejected. In response, the following remarks are submitted. Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Ground 1. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over Takada U.S. Patent 6,291,761 and further in view of Mowles U.S. Pub. 2002/0062858. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

MPEP 2142, under ESTABLISHING A PRIMA FACIE CASE OF OBVIOUSNESS, provides: "To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. [citations omitted]. See MPEP para 2143-2143.03 for decisions pertinent to each of these criteria."

First requirement--there must be an objective basis for combining the teachings of the references

The first of the requirements of MPEP 2142 is that "there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings." The present rejection is a sec. 103 combination rejection. To reach a proper teaching of an article or process through a combination of references, there must be stated an objective motivation to combine the teachings of the references, not a hindsight rationalization in light of the disclosure of the specification being examined. MPEP 2142,

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2143, and 2143.01. See also, for example, <u>In re Fine</u>, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (at headnote 1) (Fed.Cir. 1988), <u>In re Laskowski</u>, 10 USPQ2d 1397, 1398 (Fed.Cir. 1989), W.L. Gore & Associates v. Oarlock. Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 3 11-313 (Fed. Cir. 1983), and Ex parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Board of Appeals and Interferences, 1993); Ex parte Chicago Rawhide Manufacturing Co., 223 USPQ 351 (Board of Appeals 1984). As stated in <u>In re Fine</u> at 5 USPQ2d 1598:

"The PTO has the burden under section 103 to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. [citation omitted] It can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references."

And, at 5 USPQ2d 1600:

"One cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention."

Following this authority, the MPEP states that the examiner must provide such an objective basis for combining the teachings of the applied prior art. In constructing such rejections, MPEP 2143.01 provides specific instructions as to what must be shown in order to extract specific teachings from the individual references:

"Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention when there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. <u>In re Fine</u>, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); <u>In re Jones</u>, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992)."

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"The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination." <u>In re Mills</u>, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990)."

"A statement that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been 'well within the ordinary skill of the art at the time the claimed invention was made' because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention were individually known in the art is not sufficient to establish a prima facie case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. Ex parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993)."

Here, there is set forth no objective basis for combining the teachings of the references in the manner used by this rejection, and selecting the helpful portions from each reference while ignoring the unhelpful portions. An objective basis is one set forth in the art or which can be established by a declaration, not one that can be developed in light of the present disclosure.

In this case, Takada teaches an insulating layer 308 made of polyimide-based insulating tape having a thickness of 200 micrometers (col. 18, lines 8-10). Mowles teaches an insulating layer 22 which is not "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source," as recited in the claims, and is not positioned in an analogous manner to the insulating layer 308 of Takada. As the explanation of the rejection acknowledges, the insulating layer 22 of Mowles serves to electrically isolate the entire device, not to overlie and contact the front face. The insulating layer of Mowles is not at all relevant to that recited in the present claims.

There is another reason why the teachings of these references cannot be combined. Takada teaches the use of the insulating layer 308, but as clearly shown in Figure 2A and others and in the text of Mowles, Mowles teaches that the conductor 26 is deposited directly

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on a transparent conductor 25, which overlays the photovoltaic layer 24. That is, Mowles teaches against "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, there is no basis for combining the teachings of these references. If the rejection is maintained, Applicant asks that the Examiner set forth the objective basis found in the references themselves for combining the teachings of the references, and for adopting only the helpful teachings of each reference and disregarding the unhelpful teachings of the reference. Thus, as it stands now, the claimed invention is not prima facie obvious over the cited prior art.

Second requirement--there must be an expectation of success

The second of the requirements of MPEP 2142 is an expectation of success. There is no expectation of success, and in fact an expectation of an absence of success. At page 4, lines 7-8 of the Office Action, it is argued that because the references are both concerned with solar cells, there is an expectation of success. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As discussed earlier, Takada teaches an insulating layer 308 made of polyimide-based insulating tape (col. 18, lines 8-10). Mowles teaches an insulating layer 22 which is not "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source," as recited in the claims, that is positioned in an analogous manner to the insulating layer 308 of Takada. As the explanation of the rejection points out, the insulating layer 22 of Mowles electrically isolates the entire device, and does not overlie and contact the front face. There is no expectation of success in using an insulating layer 22 of Mowles in an entirely different application than that of Takada. Further, the teaching of Mowles against "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source" mandates against success.

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As stated in MPEP 2142, "The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. [citations omitted]."

Third requirement--the prior art must teach the claim limitations

The third of the requirements is that "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." In this regard, the following principle of law applies to all sec. 103 rejections. MPEP 2143.03 provides "To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art. In re Wilson, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970)." [emphasis added] That is, to have any expectation of rejecting the claims over a single reference or a combination of references, each limitation must be taught somewhere in the applied prior art. If limitations are not found in any of the applied prior art, the rejection cannot stand. In this case, the applied prior art references clearly do not teach all limitations of the claims.

Claims 1, 4

Amended claim 1, which now recites the limitations of as-filed claim 5, recites in part:

an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source, wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2 micrometers," [emphasis added]

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Takada teaches away from this limitation, by teaching that its insulating layer is a "polyimide-based insulating tape," and by teaching that its insulating layer 308 has a thickness of 200 micrometers (col. 18, lines 8-10).

Mowles also teaches away from the recited invention, by teaching that there is no "electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source." The insulating layer 22 discussed in para. [0049] of Mowles, and referenced at Final Office Action page 3, lines 8-10, is between the device and the substrate 21, not overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source.

It is a well-established principle of law that a prima facie case of obviousness may not properly be based on a reference that teaches away from the present invention as recited in the claims.

"A reference may be said to teach away when a person of ordinary skill, upon reading the reference, would be discouraged from following the path set out in the reference, or would be led in a direction divergent from the path that was taken by the applicant. In re Sponnoble, 160 USPQ 237 244 (CCPA 1969)...As "a useful general rule,"..."a reference that 'teaches away' can not create a <u>prima facie</u> case of obviousness." In re Gurley, 31 USPQ2d 1130, 1132 (Fed. Cir. 1994)."

A reading of Takada and/or Mowles leads in a direction divergent from the path taken by the applicant.

Claim 2

Claim 2 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 1 is patentable over this ground of rejection, and claim 2 is patentable as well.

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Claim 2 further recites in part:

"the photovoltaic energy source comprises exactly two layers of semiconductor

material."

Neither reference has such a teaching. Indeed, the explanation of the rejection

acknowledges that Takada has no such teaching (Final Office Action, page 3, lines 3-4).

The explanation of the rejection argues (Final Office Action, sentence bridging pages 3-4)

that it would be obvious to drop the teaching of Takada and instead use the contrary

teaching of Mowles, but provides no basis or rationale for that argument.

Claim 3

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 1 is patentable over this ground of rejection,

and claim 3 is patentable as well.

Claim 3 further recites in part:

"the photovoltaic energy source comprises more than two layers of

semiconductor material."

The rejection of claims 2 and 3 highlights the hindsight nature of the rejection. When

it suits the rejection for claim 3, it is argued that Takada is to be used alone, because it

teaches more than two layers (Final Office Action, page 2, lines 21-23). When it suits the

rejection for claim 2, it is argued that the teaching of Takada is to be combined with that of

Mowles, see sentence bridging pages 3-4 of the Final Office Action "because the material is

low cost,..." The teaching is either no combination of references or a combination of

references, but it cannot be both.

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Claim 7

Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 1 is patentable over this ground of rejection,

and claim 7 is patentable as well.

Claim 7 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer has a thickness of about 0.5 micrometers"

The "electrical insulator layer" is that described in claim 1: "electrical insulator layer

overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source." The explanation

of the rejection apparently relies for this teaching on the insulating layer 21 discussed in

para. [0049] of Mowles, but this insulating layer 21 is between the device and the substrate,

and is not an "electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the

photovoltaic energy source."

Claim 8

Claim 8 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 1 is patentable over this ground of rejection,

and claim 8 is patentable as well.

Claim 8 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer extends laterally beyond the metallic busbar layer"

The references have no such teaching, and the explanation of the rejection does not

contend that they do.

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Claim 18

Claim 18 recites in part:

"an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source, wherein the electrical insulator layer has a

thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2 micrometers"

Takada teaches away from this limitation, by teaching that its insulating layer is a

"polyimide-based insulating tape," and by teaching that its insulating layer 308 has a

thickness of 200 micrometers (col. 18, lines 8-20).

Mowles also teaches away from the recited invention, by teaching that there is no

"electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy

source." The insulating layer 22 discussed in para. [0049] of Mowles, and referenced at

Final Office Action page 3, lines 8-10, is between the device and the substrate 21, not

overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source.

As discussed earlier, a reference that teaches away from a claim limitation may not

be used to establish a prima facie ground of rejection. Takada and Mowles are not properly

applied to reject claim 18 for this reason.

Claim 19

Claim 19 depends from claim 18. Claim 18 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 18 is patentable over this ground of

rejection, and claim 19 is patentable as well.

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Claim 19 further recites in part:

"the photovoltaic energy source comprises more than two layers of

semiconductor material"

The rejection of claims 2, 3, and 19 highlights the hindsight nature of the rejection.

When it suits the rejection for claims 3 and 19, it is argued that Takada is to be used alone,

because it teaches more than two layers (Final Office Action, page 2, lines 2 1-23). When it

suits the rejection for claim 2, it is argued that the teaching of Takada is to be combined with

that of Mowles, see sentence bridging pages 3-4 of the Final Office Action "because the

material is low cost,..." The teaching is either no combination references or a combination

of references, but it cannot be both.

Claim 20

Claim 20 depends from claim 18. Claim 18 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 18 is patentable over this ground of

rejection, and claim 20 is patentable as well.

Claim 20 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride."

Takada teaches away from this limitation, by teaching that its insulating layer is a

"polyimide-based insulating tape," and by teaching that its insulating layer 308 has a

thickness of 200 micrometers (col. 18, lines 8-10).

Mowles also teaches away from the recited invention, by teaching that there is no

"electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy

source." The insulating layer 22 discussed in para. [0049] of Mowles, and referenced at

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Final Office Action page 3, lines 8-10, is between the device and the substrate 21, not overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source.

Claim 21

Claim 21 depends from claim 18. Claim 18 is patentable for the reasons discussed above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 18 is patentable over this ground of rejection, and claim 21 is patentable as well.

Claim 21 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer extends laterally beyond the metallic busbar layer"

The references have no such teaching, and the explanation of the rejection does not contend that it does.

Ground 2. Claims 9-11, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over Takada in view of Mowles, and further in view of Kaplow U.S. Patent 4,242,589. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

First requirement--there must be an objective basis for combining the teachings of the references

Applicant incorporates the discussion of the reasons that the teachings of Takada and Mowles may not be combined from the discussion of the Ground 1 rejection, above.

There is no basis for combining the teachings of Takada and Kaplow. In a concentrator solar cell of the type described by Kaplow, the solar cell becomes quite hot, and there is no reason to believe that a polyimide insulator of the type described by Takada would be operable at that temperature. If the rejection is maintained, Applicant asks that the Examiner provide an objective basis for the asserted combination of teachings.

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Second requirement--there must be

an expectation of success

Applicant incorporates the discussion of the reasons that a combination of the

teachings of Takada and Mowles would not be expected to be successful from the

discussion of the Ground 1 rejection.

A combined teaching of Takada and Kaplow also would not be expected to be

successful, as the polyimide insulation of Takada would not be expected to be operable at

the temperatures of a concentrator solar cell as taught by Kaplow.

Page 7, lines 6-7 of the Final Office Action asserts an expectation of success, but

does not address this important characteristic of concentrator solar cells and the limitation

on materials selection thereby imposed. If the rejection is maintained, Applicant asks that

the Examiner address this issue.

Third requirement--the prior art

must teach the claim limitations

Claim 9

Claim 9 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Kaplow adds nothing in this regard. Claim 1 is

patentable over this ground of rejection, and claim 9 is patentable as well.

Claim 9 further recites in part:

"a solar concentrator disposed to concentrate solar energy toward the front

face of the photovoltaic energy source"

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The photovoltaic energy source is that recited in claim 1, including "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source, wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2 micrometers." Takada and Mowles both teach against this limitation for the reasons discussed in relation to the Ground 1 rejection and which are incorporated here. The approach taught by these references are not compatible with the heat produced in a solar concentrator solar cell.

Claim 10

Claim 10 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 1 is patentable over this ground of rejection, and claim 10 is patentable as well.

Claim 10 further recites in part:

"a solar concentrator disposed to concentrate solar energy toward the front face of the photovoltaic energy source with a concentration ratio of more than 200 suns."

The photovoltaic energy source is that recited in claim 1, including "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source, wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2 micrometers." Takada and Mowles both teach against this limitation for the reasons discussed in relation to the Ground 1 rejection and which are incorporated here. The approach taught by these references are not compatible with the heat produced in a solar concentrator solar cell.

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<u>Claim 11</u>

Claim 11 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 1 is patentable over this ground of rejection,

and claim 11 is patentable as well.

Claim 11 further recites in part:

"a solar concentrator disposed to concentrate solar energy toward the

front face of the photovoltaic energy source with a concentration ratio of from

about 300 to about 500 suns."

The photovoltaic energy source is that recited in claim 1, including "an electrical

insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source,

wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about

0.3 to about 2 micrometers." Takada and Mowles both teach against this limitation for the

reasons discussed in relation to the Ground 1 rejection and which are incorporated here.

The approach taught by these references are not compatible with the heat produced in a

solar concentrator solar cell.

Claim 22

Claim 22 depends from claim 18. Claim 18 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 18 is patentable over this ground of

rejection, and claim 22 is patentable as well.

Claim 22 further recites in part:

"a solar concentrator disposed to concentrate solar energy toward the

front face of the photovoltaic energy source."

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The photovoltaic energy source is that recited in claim 1, including "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source, wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2 micrometers." Takada and Mowles both teach against this limitation for the reasons discussed in relation to the Ground 1 rejection and which are incorporated here. The approach taught by these references are not compatible with the heat produced in a solar concentrator solar cell.

Claim 23

Claim 23 depends from claim 18. Claim 18 is patentable for the reasons discussed above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 18 is patentable over this ground of rejection, and claim 23 is patentable as well.

Claim 23 further recites in part:

"a solar concentrator disposed to concentrate solar energy toward the front face of the photovoltaic energy source with a concentration ratio of more than 200 suns."

The photovoltaic energy source is that recited in claim 1, including "an electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source, wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2 micrometers." Takada and Mowles both teach against this limitation for the reasons discussed in relation to the Ground 1 rejection and which are incorporated here. The approach taught by these references are not compatible with the heat produced in a solar concentrator solar cell.

Ground 3. Claims 12 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over Takada in view of Mowles and further in view of Kaplow. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

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First requirement--there must be an objective basis for combining the teachings of the references

Applicant incorporates the discussion of the reasons that the teachings of Takada and Mowles may not be combined from the discussion of the Ground 1 rejection.

There is no basis for combining the teachings of Takada and Kaplow. In a concentrator solar cell of the type described by Kaplow, the solar cell becomes quite hot, and there is no reason to believe that a polyimide insulator of the type described by Takada would be operable at that temperature. If the rejection is maintained, Applicant asks that the Examiner provide an objective basis for the asserted combination of teachings.

Second requirement--there must be an expectation of success

Applicant incorporates the discussion of the reasons that a combination of the teachings of Takada and Mowles would not be expected to be successful from the discussion of the Ground 1 rejection.

A combined teaching of Takada and Kaplow also would not be expected to be successful, as the polyimide insulation of Takada would not be expected to be operable at the temperatures of a concentrator solar cell as taught by Kaplow.

Page 7, lines 6-7 of the Final Office Action asserts an expectation of success, but does not address this important characteristic of concentrator solar cells and the limitation on materials selection thereby imposed. If the rejection is maintained, Applicant asks that the Examiner address this issue.

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Third requirement--the prior art

must teach the claim limitations

Claim 12

Claim 12 recites in part:

"an oxide or nitride electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting

the front face of the photovoltaic energy source,"

Takada teaches away from this limitation, by teaching that its insulating layer is a

"polyimide-based insulating tape" (col. 18, lines 8-10). A polyimide-based insulating tape is

not "an oxide or nitride."

Mowles also teaches away from the recited invention, by teaching that there is no

"electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy

source." The insulating layer 22 discussed in para. [0049] of Mowles, and referenced at

Final Office Action page 3, lines 8-10, is between the device and the substrate 21, not

overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source.

<u>Claim 14</u>

Claim 14 depends from claim 12. Claim 12 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 12 is patentable over this ground of

rejection, and claim 14 is patentable as well.

Claim 14 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer has a thickness of from about 0.3 to about 2

micrometers"

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Neither reference has such a teaching. Takada teaches away from this limitation, by teaching that its insulating layer has a thickness of 200 micrometers (col. 18, lines 8-10).

Mowles also teaches away from the recited invention, by teaching that there is no "electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source." The insulating layer 22 discussed in para. [0049] of Mowles, and referenced at Final Office Action page 3, lines 8-10, is between the device and the substrate 21, not overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source.

Claim 15

Claim 15 depends from claim 12. Claim 15 is patentable for the reasons discussed above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 12 is patentable over this ground of rejection, and claim 15 is patentable as well.

Claim 15 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer has a thickness of about 0.5 micrometers.

Neither reference has such a teaching. Takada teaches away from this limitation, by teaching that its insulating layer has a thickness of 200 micrometers (col. 18, lines 8-10), over 400 times that recited in the claims.

Mowles also teaches away from the recited invention, by teaching that there is no "electrical insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source." The insulating layer 22 discussed in para. [0049] of Mowles, and referenced at Final Office Action page 3, lines 8-10, is between the device and the substrate 21, not overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source.

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Claim 16

Claim 16 depends from claim 12. Claim 12 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 12 is patentable over this ground of

rejection, and claim 16 is patentable as well.

Claim 16 further recites in part:

"the electrical insulator layer extends laterally beyond the metallic busbar layer."

The references have no such teaching, and the explanation of the rejection does not

contend that they do.

Claim 17

Claim 17 depends from claim 12. Claim 12 is patentable for the reasons discussed

above, and which are incorporated here. Claim 12 is patentable over this ground of

rejection, and claim 17 is patentable as well.

Claim 17 further recites in part:

"the solar concentrator has a concentration ratio of from about 300 to about

500 suns."

The photovoltaic energy source is that recited in claim 1, including "an electrical

insulator layer overlying and contacting the front face of the photovoltaic energy source,

wherein the electrical insulator layer is an oxide or a nitride having a thickness of from about

0.3 to about 2 micrometers." Takada and Mowles both teach against this limitation for the

reasons discussed in relation to the Ground 1 rejection and which are incorporated here.

The approach taught by these references are not compatible with the heat produced in a

solar concentrator solar cell.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are not anticipated by, nor rendered obvious in view of; the cited art either alone or in combination and thus, are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant requests allowance of all pending claims in a timely manner. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

This Response has been filed within three (3) months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action and it is believed that no fees are due with the filing of this paper. In the event that Applicant is mistaken in these calculations, applicant requests any extension of time that may be necessary and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fees determined by the Patent Office to be due from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted, McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC Dated: January 4, 2007

/TedWest/

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